

LESTER SHINGLE MILL
1602 N. 18th Street
Sweet Home
Linn County
Oregon

HAER No. OR-85

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BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Location: 1602 N. 18th Street
Sweet Home
Linn County
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Date of Construction: Originally built in 1951-52, the Lester Shingle Mill contains an early shingle-making machine, dating from 1916. Much of the mill was destroyed by fire in 1970, but the Lester family quickly rebuilt it. The shingle weavers at the Lester mill produce shingles using similar technology and using many of the same skills as they did in the early 1900s.

Builder: Melvin L. Lester.

Present Owner: Lester Shingle Company.

Present Use: Shingle manufacture.

Significance: Melvin L. Lester built a shingle mill in Sweet Home, Oregon, in 1951-52 after operating a shingle mill in nearby Foster, Oregon. The family-owned Sweet Home mill ran for nearly twenty years before a fire destroyed it in 1970. The Lester family rebuilt the mill and operates it in much the same manner as small-scale shingle mills were operated in the early twentieth century.

Photographer: Jet Lowe, HAER, 1987.

Historian: Gray Fitzsimons, Historian, National Park Service

Acknowledgements: Melvin (Mel) Lester graciously permitted Jet Lowe to photograph the shingle mill in 1987. Laura M. Mather, of Lester Sales, Inc., kindly forwarded newspaper articles and notes from interviews with Mel and Stanley L. Lester concerning the history of the Sweet Home mill.